

Newport Forest Wednesday March 22 2006

2:05 - 6:15 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH n/a; ovcst; calm; LM 4 C; FCF 4 C

Purpose: trail maintenance

Participants: Kee & Steve

We spent little time doing else than clearing obstacles and placing new log liners on the TRT. Shortly after arriving I heard a Song Sparrow and, a bit later, what sounded like the Pileated Woodpecker. Steve, who had arrived an hour earlier, saw a Great Blue down at the river rapids, as well as a pair of Mallards.

The interior of the Point-bar forest (RSF) was a jumble of downed trees and flotsam/jetsam from the river, including great swathes of drift piled against the upstream sides of trees still standing. There was about 1 mm of sediment deposited everywhere. The height of the flood waters indicated a new record. I marked high water on a small BM near the RSF bench.

The pipe bridge is still in place and we may be able to put it up soon with little trouble. We also have to rotate the log bridge before it becomes useable.

Birds: American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Blue Heron (TR); Mallard (TR); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Pileated Woodpecker (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM/E); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Saturday March 25 2006

3:30 - 5:35 pm

Weather: prec. 5 mm; n/r

Purpose: visiting scientist

Participants: Kee & Lynn Margulis

I brought Lynn Margulis, a well-known microbiologist, down to Newport after her talk to the UWO Biology Dept. earlier in the afternoon. It was somewhat depressing that her visit should take place when things are at their deadeast or most dormant, but she remained cheerful.